

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 OIC-04 SIL-01

RSR-01 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 /222 W

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R 231729Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN GATT TOKYO MTG ON MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 159293

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DISCUSSED COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN
TOKYO MTG WITH FELIPE JARAMILLO, SUB-DIRECTOR FOR TRADE RELATIONS
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN COLOMBIAN FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE
(INCOMEX). JARAMILLO'S OFFICE IS FOCAL POINT FOR MTN PREPARATIONS.

2. JARAMILLO SAID THAT GOC INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS CONSENSUS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
THAT IT WOULD BE IN COLOMBIA'S INTEREST TO JOIN THE GATT.
HE ADDED , HOWEVER, THAT GOC FACES A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM
BECAUSE THERE IS A FEELING IN SOME BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES
THAT THE GATT IS A RICH MAN'S CLUB WITH LITTLE TO OFFER TO
THE DEVELOPING WORLD. HE SAID THAT A FINAL DECISION ON ADHERING
TO GATT WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. ALTHOUGH CLEARANCE STILL PENDING, COLOMBIAN DELEGATION

PROBABLY WILL CONSIST OF MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT JOSE RAIMUNDO SOJO ZAMBRANO, ROBERTO SOTO, SUB-SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FOREIGN OFFICE, FELIPE JARAMILLO OF INCOMEX, THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO AND POSSIBLY COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA.

4. COLOMBIA'S BASIC OBJECTIVES IN NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE TO A) OBTAIN COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AS SUCH BY ELIMINATING TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST;

B) MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN PREFERENTIAL POSITION FOR LDCS IN GENERAL AND COLOMBIA IN PARTICULAR; C) ACHIEVE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE GATT ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN PART IV TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE LDCS. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE NEED FOR A FIRMER COMMITMENT BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NOT TO SEEK FULL REPROCITY FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. JARAMILLO SAID THAT THE GOC'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN BADLY SET BACK BY THE FIRE AT THE AVIANCA BUILDING, WHICH DESTROYED ALL THEIR STUDIES AND RECORDS. HE IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO DUPLICATE THE FILES WITH THE HELP OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT. AMONG THE ITEMS DESTROYED WAS INCOMEX' ONLY COPY OF THE US TARIFF SCHEDULE AND HE ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN A COPY URGENTLY FROM WASHINGTON.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE AIRPOUCH AN UP TO DATE COPY OF THE TSUS TO US URGENTLY. WE WOULD LIKE TO SATISFY THIS REQUEST IF POSSIBLE.

7. REFERRING TO THE DRAFT POLICY DECLARATION ON THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, JARAMILLO SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER EARLIER VERSIONS. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF, HE IMPLIED THAT DESPITE STATEMENTS BY CHILEAN DELEGATE AT JULY MTG IN GENEVA, THE GOC PROBABLY WOULD FIND IT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE. JARAMILLO SAID COLOMBIA DOES OBJECT STRONGLY TO BRACKETTED LANGUAGE IN PARA 6 OF THE DECLARATION ON SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. JARAMILLO SAID THAT GOC COULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ACCEPT THIS LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT WOULD PROVIDE TOO GREAT AN ADVANTAGE FOR AFRICAN AND PERHAPS SOME CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HE ASSERTED THAT IF THIS LANGUAGE WERE APPROVED IT WOULD DELAY GOC'S ENTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTO GATT FOR ANOTHER 25 YEARS.

8. JARAMILLO WAS PLEASED TO HAVE INFO IN PARA 2 REFTEL ON US DEL. HE EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
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